

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, June 7, 2021**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on June 7, 2021. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

David Mann, Vice Chairperson (absent)

Trish O'Donnell, Secretary

David Rogers, Member

Lynne Catarro, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 5, 2021 MINUTES**

Ms. Catarro moved, Mr. Rogers seconded, and the April 5, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNITY DAY**

LMT Community Day will be held this year on Saturday August 28, 2021. Ms. Huchler will contact Ms. Tierney, Director of Parks and Rec to request a DAB table. Our members will attend on a rotating schedule and distribute useful material including the DAB brochure, information and contact information for Bucks County organizations that support disabled members of our community.

**RESIDENTS REQUEST**

Ms. Huchler received a call from a LMT resident looking for guidance regarding the pool in her HOA. Ms. Huchler discussed ways to resolve conflicts and we have not heard back so are hoping all went well. It brings up a point that before anyone with a disability moves into a HOA community they should read the HOA documents to understand the limitations on making changes to the exterior of their home. Most HOA's have strict guidelines and Homeowners need prior approval to make any exterior modifications.

Ms. Huchler was asked by Ms. Tierney to assist with a request from the father of a LMT teen with special needs and joining the pool. Ms. Huchler and Ms. Tierney met with the family to discuss a plan of action for the pool. A meeting with the life guards and pool manager was suggested to see how they can address the concerns of the family.

### **DAB BROCHURE**

The DAB Brochure has not been updated in years. Ms. Lynne Catarro gave a report on her progress to date. She was able to include new graphics, update the former logo with our new name and updated all member information. She has asked the members to forward any new information that we would like to include.

Ms. Huchler will check with Chief Coluzzi regarding any new updates and emergency information to be included in the updated brochure. Should also include important information regarding links for the Bucks Alert System and sign up for Smart 911 at [smart911.com](http://smart911.com) or by download the app on your mobile device.

Updates and changes to be submitted by mid-July with the goal of having the new brochure completed for Community Day.

### **SECRET GARDEN SHADE PROJECT**

Ms. Huchler asked Ms. Tierney for an update on the Eagle Scout Project of placing shade sails in the Secret Garden playground.

Based on some of the information about installation, product and labor, the project is broader in scope due to the size, location and potential issue with the floor material at the Secret Garden. The Eagle Scout is working with the Parks and Rec department and he has found another smaller playground for his shade project. We thank him for his time and interest in his efforts to provide shade for LMT youth and wish him well in his Eagle Scout Project.

## **LMT RUN FOR ACCESSIBILITY**

Received information from the Parks and Rec department about a fundraiser for the new ADA Transition project within the park system. This event will be held on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 8:00 AM at Macclesfield Park. This run will be a color run and Ms. Huchler suggested to Ms. Tierney that not all participants may want to participate in the “color” portion of the event. The Parks and Rec was able to come up with a By-pass for those Runners who wish to avoid a “Colors Run”.

Mr. Rogers suggested we reach out to Bucks County Road Runners Association. Ms. Huchler will find out if Parks and Rec have already done this.

## **UPDATES ON BUILDING PLANS**

### **Prickett Preserve**

Nothing new at this time. Mr. Rogers will obtain the detailed blueprints when available and review all ADA design plans.

### **Lightbridge Academy**

Ms. Huchler asked if the DAB should go over to look at the site since we did not review the preliminary plans. Mr. Rogers will consider looking at the access and parking to ensure compliance with ADA. The handicapped parking looks very narrow, however as measured by Ms. O’Donnell and Mr. Rogers, they are in ADA compliance at 91’ wide.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS AND REMINDERS**

Ms. Huchler noted a new community support program in Buckingham on York Rd. called “Bakeability” which provides work opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Huchler also noted that PA State Rep Steve Santarsiero held a Virtual roundtable about PA ABLE and other resources for individuals with disabilities. Discussed with panelists savings programs, work incentives, planning for employment, and more. Some of the questions from constituents focused on Qualified expenses through PA ABLE savings accounts, Eligibility for Ticket to Work and other Social Security work programs, Job search assistance through OVR, Contributing to a PA ABLE account via payroll deductions, Advocating for employer contributions to PA ABLE accounts.

This presentation can be viewed from Rep Steve Santarsiero’s webpage.

Ms. Huchler wants to remind everyone that our local representatives like Steve Santarsiero and Perry Warren can be very helpful in providing assistance and information to people with disabilities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Catarro moved, Ms. Huchler seconded and the motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

**Next meeting to be held in August. Exact date, time and place to be determined.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish O'Donnell  
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board